



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS
HOSPITAL

keeping you
in touch
WITH YOUR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



NHH Board of Directors
Next Meeting

Thursday, August 1st, 2013
5:00 PM—Board Room, NHH

NHH commitment to safety recognized with Highly Protected Risk Award

Patients and visitors rarely get a chance to meet those who work behind the scenes at Northumberland Hills Hospital, but they are there day and night -- watching over electrical and power systems, and ensuring the necessary precautions are in place to keep the building and its inhabitants safe from fire, smoke, water and potentially hazardous materials.

On Tuesday, July 16th members of the hospital's Environmental Services team and the related Occupational Health and Safety Committee were called to the Main Street Bistro to receive some well-deserved recognition for their high quality management of risk and safety in a very complex hospital environment.

Presented to Elizabeth Vosburgh, NHH's VP, Human Resources and Quality, and Wayne Goodwin, Director, Environmental Services, the **Highly Protected Risk Award** is the result of years of hard work and recognizes the proactive approach taken by NHH to minimize risk and ensure the safety of patients, staff and visitors throughout the facility. As shown in the photo below, it was delivered by a contingent of representatives from HIROC (Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada) and their partner FM Global.

NHH is one of only 6 organizations to receive this award from HIROC, which oversees a large portfolio of 204 organizations across the country. Even more impressive was the news that NHH ranked #1 among these 6 organizations in terms of its safety preparedness, a distinction earned only through the successful completion of strict criteria for recommended risk preparedness.

Congratulations to Environmental Services Director Wayne Goodwin, VP Elizabeth Vosburgh and all the members of NHH's Environmental Services team for what NHH's HIROC and FM Global visitors described as "dedication, vigilance and sound engineering judgment." Special thanks, too, to the members of NHH's Occupational Health and Safety Committee for their ongoing commitment to safety here at NHH.



NHH Director of Environmental Services Wayne Goodwin (holding award) and VP Human Resources and Quality Elizabeth Vosburgh (fourth from left) with representatives from NHH's Environmental Services Department, Occupational Health and Safety Committee as well as the award's presenters from HIROC and FM Global.

NHH Annual Meeting celebrates efficiency and progress on patient care priorities

The Annual Meeting of Northumberland Hills Hospital was held on Thursday, June 20th, with gerontology expert Maryanne Brown delivering the keynote address on NHH's recent steps to enhance care for seniors and their caregivers.

Together with reports from Board Chair Doug Mann and Interim President and CEO Helen Brenner on the year's achievements and the priorities ahead, a report was presented by Bill Gerber, Chair of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee, on the financial status for the year ended March 31st, 2013. "Despite our efficiency and strong wait time performance," said Gerber, "we ended the 2012/13 fiscal year with an operating shortfall of \$752,955 – just 1.2 per cent of total revenue, but nevertheless a shortfall." A recovery plan was presented to the Central East LHIN Board on July 24th.

Remarks from the Board Chair included a thank you to the community physicians and volunteers who generously support NHH through their time, talents and donations. Tribute was also paid to outgoing Board Director Kaye Jackson, who concluded her second three-year term on the Board at the June meeting.

Board Directors unanimously appointed Doug Mann as the Board's Chair for 2013/14. Also appointed unanimously were Jack Russell (First Vice-Chair) and Beth Brook (Second Vice-Chair). For further details on NHH's latest Annual Meeting, and a copy of the 2012/13 Annual Report, please see the hospital's website at www.nhh.ca.



Want to be the first to get updates on hospital news?
Sign up for our e-newsletter at nhh.ca - it's free, and it's delivered straight to your email in-box on the day of release!

Integration Update Message from Helen Brenner, Interim President and CEO

NHH is one of seven Health Service Providers in Northumberland County currently involved in discussions regarding a facilitated integration. Similar discussions are also under way in other parts of the Central East region, including Haliburton County/City of Kawartha Lakes and the Region of Durham.

In addition to NHH, partners at the Northumberland integration table are Community Care Northumberland, Legion Village, Campbellford Memorial Hospital, Campbellford Memorial Multicare Lodge, Port Hope Community Health Centre and Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), Ontario Branch.

Facilitated by our funder the Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN), the aim of the discussions is to come up with a proposal or proposals for alternative service delivery models that will:

- improve client access to high-quality services;
- create readiness for future health system transformation; and
- make the best use of the public's investment.

The Northumberland integration meetings began in January and continue weekly. As representatives of the Integration Planning Team shared last week in an update to Northumberland County Council, the process is now at the half-way point of a multi-step, 10-month process which will include a review of the integration possibilities, a "deep dive" into some of the potential options, recommendations and community engagement.

The NHH Board formally endorsed the LHIN's direction of integration in December 2012 (see the December 10th, 2012 news release on www.nhh.ca for reference). As I recently reiterated in a message to our staff, this as a very timely discussion for NHH. We are a medium-sized hospital serving one of the oldest populations in Ontario. Older patients bring with them multiple chronic conditions and, by extension, an increased need for health care supports. At the same time, we are facing a significant economic challenge in this province. These two forces are coming together: increased demand versus no new dollars to fund our operations.

Being efficient, as we are, is no longer enough. We need to do things differently across the system if we are going to meet patient needs today and sustain health care services for future generations. That's what the integration discussions are about—investigating ways to do things differently.

It's very important to appreciate that these are not discussions about reducing local funding for health services. This isn't the LHIN's expectation. Rather, it is a conversation about making the best possible use of the dollars and resources we have, both today and in the future.

As a member of the Integration Planning Team I attend weekly meetings with my peers from the other organizations involved here in Northumberland. We are hoping to arrive at one or more draft proposals for integration in the coming months. From there we will invite feedback from other service providers in our area and the community at large. At this point we do not know where we will end up, but we know we need to make changes. The status quo is not an option.

The Central East LHIN website is your "go to" place for details regarding health service integration across our region, including Northumberland. A copy of the integration update delivered last week to Northumberland County Council is available there. Search for Northumberland integration from the homepage of the Central East LHIN site or go directly to the Northumberland integration content at:

http://www.centraleastlin.on.ca/report_display.aspx?id=26380

nhh.ca VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND STAY in touch

July 2013